

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Gilbert's Gift

By Walter E. Myer

A FEW weeks ago—a while before Christmas it was—14-year-old Gilbert Granger participated in one of the many radio quiz programs and won \$1,900. Immediately, without consulting his parents, he asked that \$1,000 of his earnings be used to buy toys for the poor children of his home city, Philadelphia. He showered gifts upon the needy "so that they (the children) could have as merry a Christmas as I have."

Young Granger, it appears, cannot enjoy to the full pleasures which are denied to others. His happiness is complete only when it is shared.

As soon as his generous act became known three colleges invited him to apply for a scholarship. He seems to be assured of a chance for an education, but he will never find anything more essential to successful living than he has already learned.

Gilbert Granger is, in fact, a humanitarian. He cares about the welfare of others. He is broad in his sympathies. He is touched by human suffering or misfortunes. He wants to do what he can to improve the conditions of life.

Many people, old and young, do not conform to such standard of thinking and of conduct. They care only about their own comfort and pleasures. They use education, power and influence only to "feather their own nests." That is why there are wars among nations, why there is selfishness in industry and politics, wrangling, discord and unhappiness in millions of homes.

There has been great progress toward humanitarianism during the last century. As more and more people have been guided by a humane spirit, many forward steps have been taken. There is less child labor than there formerly was. Better care is given to the sick, the poor, the unemployed. Many injustices have been wiped out. People in increasing numbers are working intelligently, but under great difficulties, for peace in the world. Advances are being made.

But greed, selfishness, cruelty and indifference to the welfare of others are still to be found all about us. One sees evidences of them at every turn. Despite inspiring progress it is true today, as it was in the times of Robert



Walter E. Myer
Burns, that "Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn." Change thousands to millions and the complaint will still stand. Lack of concern about the other fellow and his problems is still the great destroyer of happiness.

We need more Gilbert Grangers, more intelligent young Americans of humane spirit to join the ranks of those who are moving slowly but surely toward higher standards of personal and social living. The goal is one toward which every school and every student may hopefully strive.

Not many will get the recognition that Gilbert Granger received for his generous act. But—what is more important—all those who are guided by a humane spirit will bring to themselves a full measure of happiness.



"HOW STRONG is the current?" England is asking this, says the cartoonist, since the defeat of Labor governments in Australia and New Zealand.

Important Elections

World Studies Effects of Recent Balloting in Which Australians and New Zealanders Voted Labor Parties Out of Office

INFORMED people all over the world are interested in what has been happening in New Zealand and Australia. For some years both of these countries had governments run by the Labor Party, but in recent elections, opposition parties won out. Consequently there will be a good deal of attention focused on these lands in the months ahead to see what changes the new governments will make in the labor program.

Before discussing the elections, let's take a brief look at the two countries where they were held. Both Australia and New Zealand are island dominions of the British Commonwealth, separated by about 1,250 miles of the Pacific Ocean.

The continent of Australia is approximately the same size as the United States. Although it has encouraged immigration in recent years, Australia has only about 8 million people—less than 6 per cent of the population of the U.S.A. Sheep farming and wheat raising are two of Australia's most important industries, but manufacturing has made rapid progress in the last 30 years.

Located to the east of Australia, the islands that make up New Zealand are roughly equal in area to the state of Nevada. The population is some-

what less than 2 million. As in Australia, most of the islands' natives are of British descent. Sheep and dairy farming are among New Zealand's leading industries.

Both Australia and New Zealand have governments modeled on that of the mother country, Great Britain. Each has a two-house parliament to make laws. The leader of the majority party serves as prime minister so long as he continues to have the support of most of the members of the lower house of parliament.

At the recent election in New Zealand, the Labor Party lost control of the national parliament for the first time in 14 years. The group opposing the Labor Party, known as the National Party, won 46 seats in the House of Representatives to 34 for the Labor Party. Sydney George Holland, head of the National Party, succeeded Peter Fraser, Labor Party leader, as Prime Minister.

In waging its campaign, the Labor government had stood upon its record of the past 14 years. During that period it had carried out various social security measures with particular emphasis on old-age and disability benefits, family allowances, unemployment insurance, and free medical service.

(Concluded on page 2)

Rival Medical Plans Debated

U. S. Doctors Step Up Campaign Against the Truman Health Insurance Proposal

THIS year, the American Medical Association is building a 3-million-dollar war chest to use in fighting President Truman's national health insurance plan. The fund is being raised through dues of \$25 each, levied upon most of the Association's 145,000 members.

President Truman's health program is now before Congress. It includes some measures that the AMA leaders favor, as well as the insurance plan which they are determined to block. Briefly stated, the Truman proposals are as follows:

- Under a federal health insurance system, wage earners and employers would be required to make regular payments into a national fund. Money from this fund would be used to cover the medical expenses of families throughout the United States—to pay doctor bills, hospital charges, and so on. The health insurance plan would be added to the rest of the social security system.

- The present program of federal financial aid to state and local agencies for the building of hospitals would be continued. A Truman request for enlargement of this program was granted by Congress last year. In addition, similar help would be given for the expansion of medical schools. The U. S. government would increase the contributions it makes to state agencies for public health work.

- The federal government would continue its extensive medical research activities. It would make grants to private research organizations, and conduct studies in its own laboratories. Efforts would be made to learn more about the treatment of cancer, heart disease, poliomyelitis, and other illnesses.

To counter President Truman's program, the American Medical Association (Concluded on page 6)



DOCTOR and young patient

Elections "Down Under"

(Concluded from page 1)

The government had also taken over a number of industries, formerly in private hands. Nationalized fields include coal, electricity, railways, communications, radio, hospitals, and some housing. Numerous controls had been imposed—on imports and exports, on prices, and on the sale of land, to mention a few.

The victorious National Party promised to ease government controls, to reduce taxes, and to encourage free enterprise. It promised to eliminate much of the "red tape" that has been necessary for businesses. At the same time, it made plain that it would make no cuts in the social security program that has been carried out by the Labor Party in recent years.

Australian Election

The Australian election fell into much the same pattern as the New Zealand voting. In Australia the Labor Party lost out after eight years in power. A combination composed of the Liberal and Country Parties received 73 seats in the House of Representatives to 46 for the Labor Party. Robert Menzies, head of the Liberal Party, has replaced Joseph Chifley as Prime Minister.

As in New Zealand, Australia's Labor Party campaigned on its record. It said that Australia had attained a high degree of prosperity under the Labor regime and pointed out that wages are good and that there is no unemployment.

One big difference between the two elections was that nationalization of industry was not a major issue in Australia. Nationalization is forbidden by the Australian constitution, and it could not be carried out unless the constitution were changed. However, Australia's Labor Party has been on record for many years that its final objective was socialism. Thus, the possibility of future nationalization

through a change in the constitution was in the background though it could not be considered a leading issue.

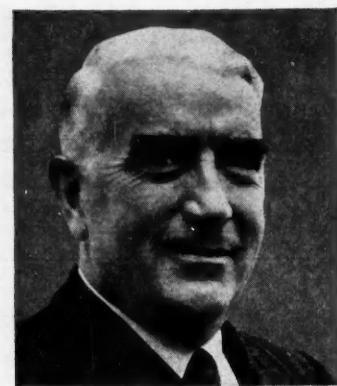
The winning coalition in Australia attacked what it called the "march toward socialism," and came out strongly for free enterprise. It pledged to bring about lower prices and to eliminate various controls. It profited by several unpopular moves of the Labor government in recent years—for example, the attempt to have wartime price controls made permanent, and the move to have private banks put under the control of the government.

Why did the voters in the lands "down under" turn out their Labor governments? Of course, the elections indicate that the majority of voters were dissatisfied. There has been disagreement, though, on just *why* they ousted the Labor Party from control—on the specific points in the Labor program with which the majority of people were out of sympathy.

Some observers have concluded that the voters in the two British dominions were rejecting the "welfare state" with its costly social benefits. Others point out, however, that the winning groups in both Australia and New Zealand pledged that they would retain most of the social benefits which the Labor government had put into effect during its stay in office.

Another view—more widely held—is that the voters, while favoring the social security program, were "fed up" with the various controls and restrictions that the Labor governments had imposed upon the people. The voters felt, it is said, that too many curbs were being put on their individual liberty.

The *Sydney Sun*, an Australian newspaper, reflected this point of view when it commented: "These figures (of the Australian election) reflect the rebellion of Mrs. Australia, the house-



WIDE WORLD
ROBERT MENZIES, head of Australia's government



WIDE WORLD
SYDNEY HOLLAND, New Zealand's Prime Minister

wife, fed up with restrictions, shortages, and controls."

An explanation which takes more of a long-range point of view is advanced by some observers. They think that the upsets in New Zealand and Australia, while reflecting the dissatisfaction of the voters, also demonstrate the natural workings of the political cycle.

They point out that in all countries where free elections are held, voters tend to want a change after a single party has been in power for some time. The party in power, made overconfident by a number of victories, is likely to lose the energy and drive that first put it into office. Its popularity declines.

Cycle Repeated

Thus, it is voted out of office and another group comes into power. After that group stays in power for a time, the cycle will eventually be repeated. A study of election results in the United States, Great Britain, and other countries shows that this cycle is a well established one. And—observers claim—the recent elections "down under" are good examples of how it works.

The balloting in Australia and New Zealand attracted a good deal of attention in Great Britain. The British, too, have had a Labor government for some years, and a general election is coming up soon. (At the time of this writing, the exact date has not been announced.) People are wondering if the defeat of the Labor governments in New Zealand and Australia is a fore-runner of what will happen in Britain.

Although the British Labor Party has not been in power as long as were the defeated Labor governments in New Zealand and Australia, it has followed much the same type of program. It has greatly expanded the social security program in Britain and has provided some benefits—free medical service, for example—which had not previously been available. It has also taken over such industries as coal, electricity, transportation, and communications. It has approved laws giving it power to bring the steel companies under national ownership.

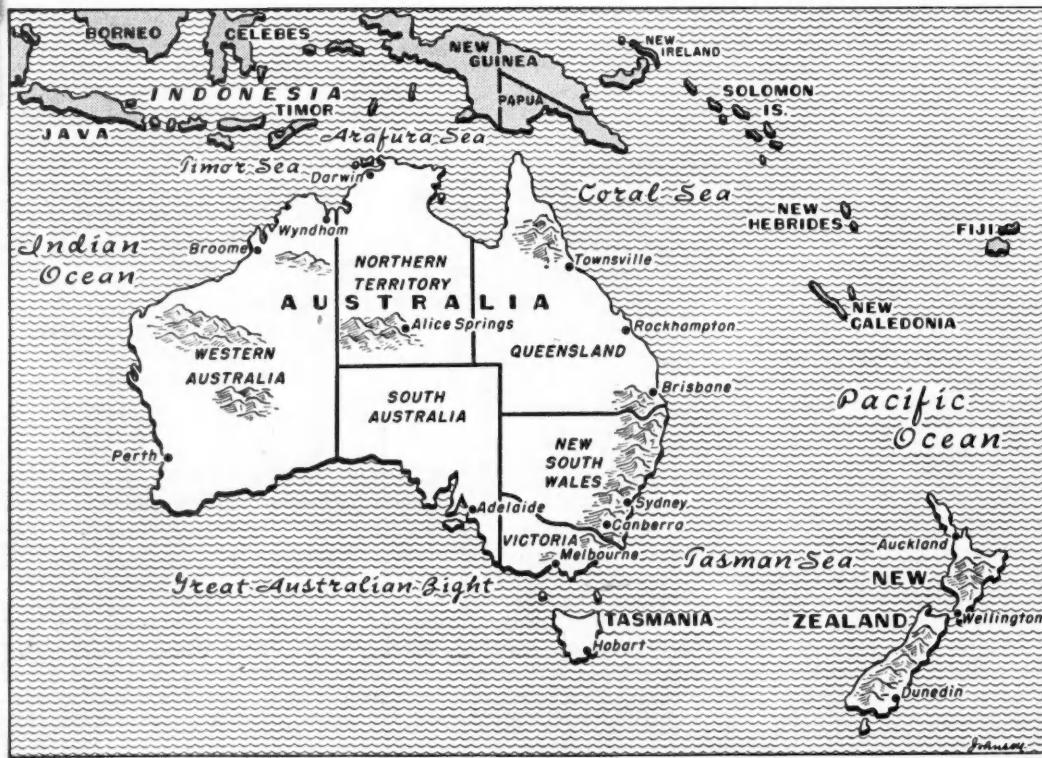
Citing these and other similarities between the British Labor Party's program and the programs of one or both of the recently defeated governments in New Zealand and Australia, leaders of the British Conservative Party think that voters in their country will follow the lead of the electorate in the dominions "down under." For example, Lord Woolton, Conservative Party chairman, said:

"In both Australia and New Zealand, the young countries of the world, they have tried Socialism and found it out. They now know from experience that it just does not bring contentment and a higher standard of living. It fails in the end . . . Great Britain . . . will come to the same conclusion as all the people have the chance to choose the way of life they want."

Labor Disagrees

British Labor Party leaders do not agree. They claim that the elections in both Australia and New Zealand hinged to a great degree on purely local issues, issues which do not loom large in Great Britain. They say that the British Labor Party has not been in power as long as the Labor Parties in New Zealand and Australia were, and therefore the political cycle is not as far advanced and there is less likelihood of a change. Furthermore they claim that Lord Woolton's statement is not correct since Australia cannot be said to have tried socialism.

Whether Britain will follow the lead of New Zealand and Australia or will return its government to power remains to be seen. The subject will continue to be widely debated, though, up until the time of the British elections. Under British law an election must be held at least every five years. The last general election took place in July, 1945.



NEW ZEALAND, with about 104,000 square miles, is a small area when compared with neighboring Australia, which has nearly 3 million square miles.

Readers Say—

I know that financial difficulties cause some young people to leave high school before they graduate. Yet, if they really want an education, students need not drop out before getting their diploma. A boy or girl can find a part-time job or work during vacations if he must supplement his family's income.

I myself have been self-supporting for the last three years, and nevertheless am able to participate in extra-curricular activities. I am even taking an extra subject during my senior year.

JUNE WIHLA,
Deer River, Minnesota

★ ★ ★

In your November 28 issue, you published a story on teen-age drivers. In my opinion, if the adults of our country are so concerned about the way young people handle automobiles, they should seek enactment of laws requiring all high school students to take a course in driving safety. The school I attend, Antigo Senior High, gives such a course to all sophomores.

HERB SIMON,
Antigo, Wisconsin

★ ★ ★

In my opinion, women should be encouraged to seek public office. After all, what makes men think they are superior to women? They do not have any higher IQ's than the women and they are certainly no more efficient.

I believe that women have trouble in succeeding in politics because men are prejudiced. They do not like to see women in positions of responsibility and importance.

CHARLOTTE McGINNIS,
Kansas City, Missouri

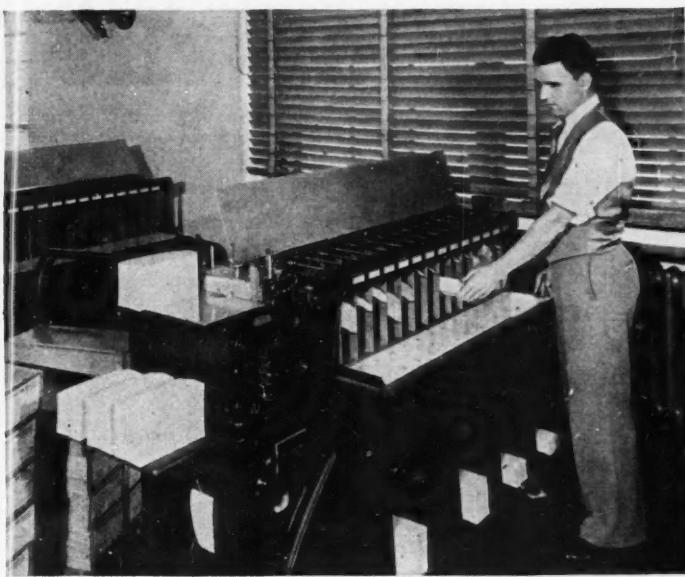


It seems to me that our government is spending billions of dollars in useless ways. Our foreign aid program, for instance, is designed to help combat communism in western Europe, and yet some of the countries in this region are Russian satellites.

Rather than aid countries that oppose our policies, why don't we spend our money on people right here in the United States? Many sections of our nation are without decent schools. Others need adequate housing.

ALBERT R. ANNESS,
Hamilton, Ohio

(Editor's Note: We are publishing Albert R. Anness' letter because it represents one point of view in the debate over foreign aid. We must, however, point out that he is mistaken in thinking that the U. S. is aiding Russia's satellites. It is true that we have granted a loan to Yugoslavia, and Yugoslavia is a Communist country. At the same time, this nation has not been following Russian foreign policy for about a year and a half.)



GOVERNMENT CENSUS BUREAU
SKILL is needed in repairing complicated office machines. This one sorts record cards for the U. S. Census Bureau.

Career for Tomorrow

Office Machine Repairman

THE repairing of office machines is a small but important, and often rewarding, branch of mechanical work. The jobs are held almost entirely by men. They require mechanical ability, patience, and an aptitude for using one's hands in doing intricate tasks.

There are many kinds of office machines: typewriters, adding machines, calculators, cash registers, the more complicated accounting-bookkeeping machines, and finally—the king of them all—the accounting-statistical machines that perform so many wonders with punch cards.

Repairmen usually specialize in working on one kind of a machine or another. In small communities, a serviceman may work on several types of office equipment.

The general duties of people working on different kinds of machines are similar. The repairmen dismantle equipment, look for defects, replace worn parts, and put the entire devices together again. They also clean the machines and "tune" them up.

Most of us are acquainted with typewriters, cash registers, adding machines, and calculators. We do not know, though, so much about the accounting-bookkeeping and the accounting-statistical machines. The former have keyboards that combine the features of typewriters and adding machines. They are used for getting out bills and posting entries in banks, department stores, and big companies.

The accounting-statistical or punch-card machines record, sort, and tabulate material that has been punched on cards. The machines are operated electrically. In order to set them up for their work and to repair them, a young man must be able to make his way through a maze of electric wiring.

Three companies manufacture the accounting-statistical equipment. They are the Underwood Corp., Remington Rand, Inc., and the International Business Machines Corp. These companies train their own repairmen and employ them after they are trained.

Generally speaking, the opportunities for entering any branch of office machine repair work are limited. The manufacturing companies and repair

shops accept for training only the number of men they think will be needed in the future. Those who find openings, though, are almost assured of continuous employment.

Earnings vary from locality to locality. In the smaller places, repairmen earn from \$45 to \$75 a week. In larger communities, they make from \$55 to \$100 or more a week.

Young men who are interested in learning this kind of work should ask about openings in small repair shops in their communities. They can also ask at the sales offices of the major manufacturing companies about schools conducted by the companies. Addresses of these offices are given in the telephone books of the larger cities.

Bulletin No. 892 published by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, discusses work in the office machine field. It can be secured for 15 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. In ordering, enclose coin, not stamps.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Science News

Europe's highest research station is manned by Swiss scientists working atop a wind-swept ridge in the Alps at an elevation of 11,000 feet. Aside from a resort hotel, the only buildings on the mountain are a research institute building and two observatories. The buildings are connected by underground passages.

Astronomers, cosmic-ray specialists, geologists, and atomic scientists are all making use of the research location for their work. The rare atmosphere on the mountain is helpful in some experiments. During the winter the scientists are almost alone on the mountain, for only 10 other persons live there during the cold season.

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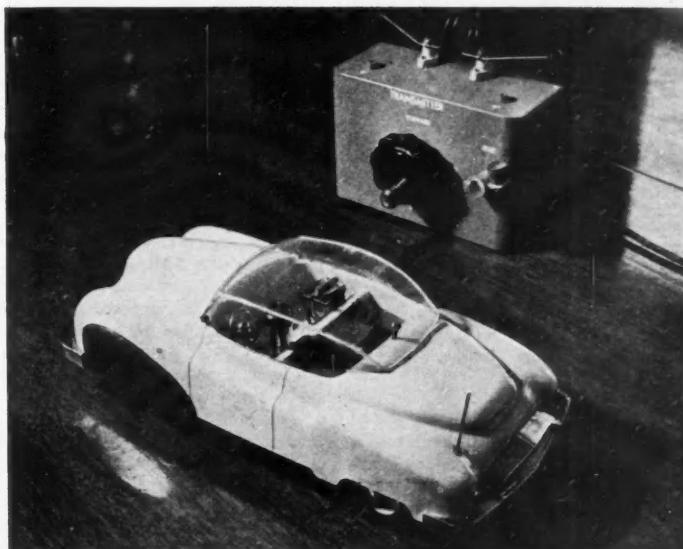
The U. S. Navy is investigating a new method of navigation by listening to the "screeching" of the stars. This screeching is caused by the great streams of radio waves sent to the earth by the stars. At first it was thought that the noisy waves were coming from vast areas in the sky, but now it is believed that they come from fixed areas in the Milky Way, and from single stars.

When the proper equipment is designed, scientists think that pilots may steer their ships and planes by "tuning in" on the radio waves sent from the stars.

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Science Service has made its selection of some of the biggest science news stories of 1949. Among them are:

1. Russia's atomic explosion.
2. The use of cortisone for the treatment of arthritis.
3. The development of drugs to treat the common cold.
4. A cure for seasickness—a drug called dramamine.
5. The non-stop, round-the-world flight of an Army bomber in 94 hours.
6. The further development of guided missiles—details still top secret.
7. The discovery of Stone Age man in Alaska.
8. The development of fluorocarbons, especially useful as lubricants in jet planes. —By HAZEL L. ELDRIDGE.



WIDE WORLD
RADIO controls this toy auto, invented by John and Andrew Yeiser of Berkeley, Calif. The car is about a foot long and has a tough plastic top, that will stand up under harsh treatment. The control unit is shown in the background.

The Story of the Week

Friendly Yugoslavia?

In recent weeks, Yugoslavia has made two important moves to improve its relations with the western powers. In one, the Balkan nation signed a trade agreement with Great Britain that calls for the exchange of about 616 million dollars' worth of goods between the two countries within the next five years.

Yugoslavia will sell to Britain and other nations in the British Commonwealth timber, corn, and such metals as lead and copper. Britain and the dominions are to sell to Yugoslavia wool, wool and cotton yarn, chemicals, rubber and rubber products, heavy machinery, and other industrial equipment.

In the second move, Yugoslavia signed a civil aviation pact with the United States. Under the pact, American commercial planes can land in, and fly over, Yugoslavia, and Yugoslav commercial airliners may do likewise in the American occupation zones of Germany and Austria.

Yugoslavia's agreement with the United States is considered particularly significant. Before Marshal Tito broke with Russia about a year and a half ago, Yugoslavia was not only hostile to the west but was involved in several bitter disputes with the United States.

In 1946, for instance, Yugoslav forces shot down two unarmed U. S. Air Force transports while they were



IN AMERICANA, BRAZIL. This new \$6,500,000 hydroelectric power plant will serve an area of 40,000 square miles.

for Indonesian independence. Dr. Achmed Soekarno, who was recently made President of the United States of Indonesia, was head of the Republican forces that fought against the Dutch until about half a year ago. Dr. Mohammed Hatta, the premier of the new country, was likewise a leader in the movement for a free and independent Indonesia.

Until a permanent constitution is drawn up, a provisional one is being used to govern the island archipelago. The provisional constitution went into effect on December 27, the day the Dutch formally gave up their control of Indonesia. The document provides for a federal union of the 16 states making up the United States of Indonesia and is based on democratic principles. A special assembly to formulate a permanent constitution for the republic is expected to be elected in the near future.

The United States of Indonesia has already been recognized by most of the members of the United Nations. The United States of America granted full recognition 24 hours after the new nation was formally established.

High UN Post

The UN Security Council may not agree for some time on a person to succeed Trygve Lie as Secretary General of the world organization. Lie's current term in office expires February 1, 1951, but he has already announced that he will not be a candidate for re-election. The Secretary General took over the top administrative job in the UN early in 1946.

The reason that the UN may run into trouble in finding a successor to Lie is that any candidate for Secretary General must be approved by the Security Council before he is voted on by the General Assembly. Since the job is an important one, neither Russia nor the western powers may be willing to accept the other's nominee, though they may eventually decide on a compromise candidate if a deadlock threatens seriously to hamper the UN's work.

Several possibilities have been mentioned for Secretary General. One is Carlos Romulo, of the Philippines, who served as president of the last session of the General Assembly. Another is



17-YEAR-OLD Paul Haruo Kasai of Japan is going to school in Greybull, Wyoming, because his father helped feed an American prisoner during the war. The ex-prisoner, Henry Schmidt of Greybull, brought Kasai to America as a token of gratitude.

flying over Yugoslav territory in a storm. We charged that the action was uncalled for and demanded that Yugoslavia pay damages for both the planes and the five Americans who were killed in the incident. The Yugoslavs agreed to make compensation to families of the men and a serious crisis was avoided, although relations between the two countries were strained for many months.

New Republic

The world's youngest country—the United States of Indonesia—is 13 days old today. Like most new nations, it is devoting all its energies to building a strong and prosperous land, and it is faced with a number of economic and political difficulties.

The officials of the new republic all played important roles in the struggle

Japanese students will come here to study.

Our government is bringing the Japanese to the United States and is paying their expenses during the trip. It hopes that their visit will help them prepare for the day when their country will once again run its own affairs without foreign supervision.

Three Democratic Partners

The United States, Great Britain and Canada are working out the details of a military standardization plan, the broad outline of which was recently agreed upon by the three western powers. Under the standardization program, small arms, artillery pieces, military clothing, certain types of ships and other military equipment and supplies will eventually be produced in a uniform manner. All three Allies will train their ground troops as well as naval and air force personnel in the same general military principles.

It was decided to make an effort to standardize the military weapons and training methods of the three democracies as a result of the experience of World War II. In that conflict, there was scarcely any standardization at all. The British, Canadians, and our other Allies could not use our arms or equipment without modifying their own. We could not use such simple British products as their screws and bolts because they had different thread measurements from ours.

The job of developing a thorough-going standardization agreement is expected to take several years. If it proves successful, we may urge other western European nations to sign similar agreements with one another, as well as with Great Britain, Canada and ourselves.

Pilgrim Settlement

Plans for restoring the original Pilgrim settlement are moving ahead at Plymouth, Massachusetts. A replica of a Pilgrim home has already been completed. Other buildings which were in the first permanent New England colony—the fort, governor's house, some 10 homes, the store house, and the palisade, or wall, surrounding the



ICE HOCKEY is one of the world's fastest, most exciting sports. Thousands of Americans, especially in northern cities, watch expert professional teams compete with one another during the winter season.



A STUDENT COUNCIL discusses the U. S. Treasury's school savings program. The chairman is showing a new album for the stamps students buy under the savings plan.

village—will be erected in the future.

Each of the structures will contain furnishings used during the time of the Pilgrims. In the houses, tools for spinning, wood-working, and candle-making will be on display. The name of the little settlement will even be spelled the way the Pilgrims' first governor preferred—Plimoth.

It may surprise some people to see that the Pilgrim homes were not log cabins. When they arrived here, the small band of pioneers constructed the type of house which they had known and used in the past—a structure with wooden frame and a thatched roof.

Those in charge of restoring Plimoth hope some day to have a full-size, exact replica of the *Mayflower*. The ship would ride at anchor in the near-by harbor and would be open to the public, just as Plimoth will be.

Planning Staff

A little known division in the State Department has been in the news lately. The division is the Policy Planning Staff, which works out our government's position on foreign affairs. Secretary of State Dean Acheson meets with the Policy Planning Staff once or twice a week. Together, they discuss the major problems facing the U. S. in its relations with other countries.

Until a few weeks ago, the head of the Policy Planning Staff was George Kennan, a career officer in the State Department. He has since been replaced by Paul Nitze, a New York banker who has held various positions in the government since 1941. Nitze's most recent job has been that of Kennan's assistant in formulating American foreign policy.

Cancer Discovery

Medical scientists are wondering whether they now have reached a major turning point in the battle against cancer. Many of them are greatly encouraged over a recent report made by Dr. Irene Corey Diller, a zoologist, at the Institute of Cancer Research in Philadelphia.

Speaking before a group of Ameri-

can scientists in New York City, Dr. Diller told of finding tiny, invisible plants, known as fungi, growing in cancer tissue. Doctors have long been familiar with many types of fungi, but this is the first time the microscopic plants have been definitely associated with cancer.

Dr. Diller cautioned the scientists against concluding that fungi cause cancer. However, many experts consider her discovery one of the most important yet made in the field of cancer research.

Tax Law Enforcement

The U. S. Bureau of Internal Revenue is studying possible methods of improving the way in which it collects taxes from individuals and companies. According to officials, the government receives each year about one billion dollars less in revenue than it should because everyone does not pay all the

taxes he or his business owes the government.

Some experts in the Bureau think that a larger staff of trained investigators would help increase the taxes that are collected annually. Others are of the opinion that a widespread educational campaign would help.

A proposal to authorize the Internal Revenue Bureau to expand its tax-enforcement program may be made soon by the House Ways and Means Committee, which is responsible for finding methods of raising money for the federal government. The committee feels that because of the large deficits expected in both this year's and next year's budgets, every effort should be made to obtain as much revenue as possible through the collection of income and other federal taxes.

Anti-Sub Warfare

The Navy is increasing its efforts to find an effective answer to the snorkel submarine. Underwater vessels equipped with snorkels do not have to surface in order to obtain fresh air for their crews. As a result, they are difficult to detect while they are operating on the high seas.

Some of the most important of the Navy's experiments in anti-submarine warfare are being conducted at the Key West Naval Station in Florida. Here, naval personnel and scientific experts test the advantages of such submarine detection methods as sonar, radar and the magnetic airborne detection system. Thus far, no method has been developed that is completely effective in tracking down a submarine fitted with a snorkel device.

Sonar, radar and the magnetic airborne detection systems all work rather well for short distances but they fall down in situations where submarines operate far from the pursuing ship or plane. Sonar is a method of detecting submarines by sound waves. Radar uses electronic principles. The system of magnetic airborne detection employs a magnetic device containing a needle.

—By DAVID BEILES.

SMILES

Interviewer: "Are you one of those people who watch the clock all day?"

Applicant: "Oh no, I have a watch."

★ ★ ★

Patient: "Doctor, my head is like a lump of lead, my neck's as stiff as a pipe, and my muscles contract like bands of iron."

Doctor: "I believe you'd be better off to consult your hardware dealer."

★ ★ ★

"Aren't you afraid the birds will eat these seeds? You need a scarecrow."

"Oh no, there's always one of us in the garden."

★ ★ ★

Dean: "And where have you been for the last two days?"

Student: "Stop me if you've heard this one before."

★ ★ ★

Student: "What would you advise that I read when I graduate?"

Prof: "The help wanted columns."

★ ★ ★

Wife: "Our new girl is a cooking-school graduate."

Husband: "Boy, she must have flunked biscuits."

Foreman: "What's the idea of quitting?"

Worker: "I don't mind having to rivet all day, but the fellow in back of me hums incessantly."

★ ★ ★

Dad: "You are certainly a fortunate man."

"Why?"

"You won't have to buy me any new books next term. I've been left in the same class."



"Which one of you jokers has been winding the clock before they are mailed?"

Study Guide

Health Plans

1. Briefly outline the Truman administration's health program which is now before Congress.

2. On what points does this program agree with that of the American Medical Association?

3. Tell how the AMA viewpoint differs from that of administration officials on the issue of health insurance.

4. How is the AMA raising money to fight President Truman's national health insurance plan?

5. Give arguments that are used by opponents of the compulsory health insurance proposal.

6. What arguments are presented by those who advocate such insurance?

7. All health insurance and group health plans are aimed at overcoming what big problem?

8. What compromise proposals may the lawmakers consider?

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not favor compulsory national health insurance? Explain your position.

2. Among the other portions of President Truman's health program, which do you feel is most important? Give reasons for your answer.

Dominion Elections

1. Briefly describe the two countries where elections were recently held.

2. What campaign promises did the victorious National Party make in New Zealand?

3. Tell what the Labor Party in New Zealand had done during its stay in power.

4. What was one big difference between the Labor programs in Australia and New Zealand?

5. Describe briefly the positions of the opposing parties in the Australian election.

6. What long-range point of view is advanced by some observers as an explanation of the Australian and New Zealand elections?

7. Why did the balloting in these two countries attract so much attention in Great Britain?

8. What differing views are expressed as to the effect the elections "down under" will have in Britain?

Discussion

1. Among the reasons that have been advanced by various observers to explain the outcome of the elections "down under," which do you think is the most important? Explain.

2. Do you think the results of the two elections have any significance in determining what will happen in Great Britain? Why or why not?

Miscellaneous

1. What has Yugoslavia done in recent weeks to improve its relations with the western powers?

2. List some of the slogans that have been important in U. S. political history.

3. Name the world's youngest country. What nation, until recently, controlled the area the new country includes?

4. Describe the standardization program being worked out by Canada, Great Britain, and the United States.

5. What important discovery has been made in the fight against cancer?

6. Why is the snorkel submarine particularly difficult to fight?

7. Discuss the importance of Formosa to the United States.

8. How may Uncle Sam attempt to collect all the taxes that people owe him?

Pronunciations

Ahmed Soekarno—ahk-méh-kahr-nó

Mohammed Hatta—mó-hám'éd hah-tah

Gunnar Myrdal—gún'ahr meer'dahl



WAR VETERANS get medical care in government hospitals like this one, nearing completion in Albany, New York

country is weakened, both in war and peace, when its people are not as healthy as they could and should be.

"It is true that many families, doctors, and hospitals have worked out *voluntary* health insurance plans whereby people make regular payments and are thus assured of hospital and medical attention when they need it. But most Americans still do not prepare in advance to meet the heavy expenses involved in serious illnesses. From both an individual and national standpoint, therefore, the federal government should adopt compulsory health insurance.

"The law providing for such a program could set up proper safeguards, so that the medical services of the nation would not fall under political control or interference. Doctors would be chosen to administer this program.

Better Plan for All

"In the long run, the doctors and nurses—as well as the patients—will be better off and more secure under a federal health insurance program than under the present system. They will have the same number of patients in good and bad years, and they will be assured of being paid for their services. Today many doctor bills go unpaid because people have not put money aside for this purpose."

These and other arguments will continue to be heard as Congress debates the health question. Congress will probably consider several compromise medical plans that have been suggested. One, to reduce the cost of the program, would require families to pay a certain part of their own medical bills each year. Another would use the fund chiefly to furnish medical care for low-income families.

The lawmakers may enact some portions of President Truman's program, and reject other parts. It is almost certain that a great deal of money will be appropriated—as in previous years

A Debate Over Rival Medical Plans

(Concluded from page 1)

tion has drawn up some proposals of its own. Its plan, like that of the President, urges the federal government to spend a great deal of money on medical research. The AMA also agrees that state and local public health services—for such purposes as checking the spread of contagious diseases—should be expanded. And, like the Truman administration, AMA leaders favor giving federal money to local organizations for use in building hospitals and clinics.

The American Medical Association proposes that a new U. S. Department of Health be created. The head of this department would be a doctor, and he would serve as a member of the President's cabinet. All federal health activities, except the medical services of the armed forces, would be supervised by the new agency.

Although it is fighting the Truman administration's plan for *compulsory* health insurance on a national scale, the AMA does not oppose insurance systems that are worked out on a *voluntary* basis by doctors, hospitals, and patients. It agrees that many families would be better off if they made regular payments to take care of their health costs. At present, millions of Americans are already covered by voluntary plans of one kind or another.

Voluntary Systems

Under these private systems, groups of people make regular payments into insurance funds which are used to pay their medical expenses. In many cases, only hospital bills are covered. Some health insurance plans, however, provide for paying doctor, dentist, and X-ray costs, plus hospital expenses. In general, private systems that are well planned and well operated have the medical profession's approval.

In a number of communities, groups of doctors are practicing on a cooperative basis. They provide all or most medical services needed by families that make payments to them at monthly or other regular intervals.

All health insurance and group health plans—the private ones that

are now operating, and the federal one that President Truman proposes—represent efforts to overcome this big problem: The average family, if it is not enrolled in some insurance program, builds no health fund for itself. It does not save a small amount each week or month for future doctor and hospital bills. Then when a major illness occurs, the family is unable to meet its medical expenses. It may have to go into debt or accept charity.

Moreover, a great many people will not spend money to have regular health examinations. As a result, dangerous diseases may get well under way before they are detected.

If, however, families make regular payments for medical service, they are more likely than otherwise to visit the doctor when they need to, and have yearly health examinations. Their doctor bills will already have been paid. There is widespread agreement on the need for some type of prepaid medical care for families that may not be able to afford doctor and hospital bills when the need arises.

AMA Arguments

But the American Medical Association contends that *private, voluntary*, insurance programs represent the only proper way of providing such care. In support of its position, the AMA offers these arguments:

"There is no more reason to force people to put money aside for their health expenses than for their food. A great many families spend their money foolishly and thus are unable to enjoy proper diets. Their health suffers the consequences. If, therefore, people are going to be compelled to save for their medical expenses, why not force them to spend the proper amounts for their food? Or why not force them to save to buy homes; or to educate their children?

"As a matter of fact, once the government begins a program of compulsion in one field, it is no time at all before it does the same thing in other fields. That is the starting point of government regimentation and the

danger signal for democracy and free enterprise.

"If the government collects all or most of the money which is used to pay medical expenses in this country, nothing in the world can prevent political leaders from eventually controlling and dominating the health field. Such a development would check the great medical strides that have been made in this country.

"Everyone recognizes that there is still room for progress under our present way of providing medical care. At the same time, it is an undeniable fact that this system has a record of achievement envied by the rest of the world. It would be tragic to end it.

"Present experience in England shows that people, when they are free to go to doctors as often as they please, abuse the privilege. The British doctors are reported to be so overburdened by unnecessary calls that their own health and efficiency are being seriously impaired. Doctors find it impossible to give deserving patients the attention they need."

Officials of the Truman administration, on the other hand, contend that Britain's national health insurance program is working successfully. Oscar Ewing, U. S. Federal Security Administrator, says, "What we have seen in England confirms my deep conviction that the national health insurance proposal will be good for America."

Those who favor government health insurance argue that the problem of unnecessary demands for medical care could be overcome. For instance, small fees—just large enough to discourage needless demands upon the doctors' time—might be charged.

In general, advocates of a compulsory national health insurance program argue as follows:

"So long as the American people are not required to take part in some health insurance plan, the majority of them will not save enough to meet sickness emergencies. This is not merely an individual or family problem, but it is also a national one. The



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, WASH., D. C.
MILLIONS of Americans already have bought insurance, to enable them to get hospital care when they need it.

—to aid medical research, state health activities, and hospital construction. Such programs have strong support in both major political parties.

The elephant population of the United States—living in carnivals, zoos, and circuses—is down to about 300. Wild elephants are found in the forests of India, Burma, Siam, French Indo-China, and the Malay Peninsula. They also live on the islands of Ceylon and Sumatra, and in the jungles of Africa. Those shipped to this country are usually gentle creatures. Though an elephant has roamed the jungle until grown, he can be trained.

Formosa Becomes Last Stronghold

Chiang Kai-shek Fortifies Island Against Communists

THE rich island of Formosa is now a last Chinese holdout against communism. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, driven from the Chinese mainland by Communist armies, has established Nationalist government headquarters in Taipei, the capital of Formosa. Chiang has put troops, probably over 400,000, on the island. With new fortifications, he hopes to keep out the Communists.

Chiang's hold on the Chinese mainland, with its more than 400 million people, was broken last summer and fall. The Communists captured the cities of Shanghai and Canton then. Complete collapse came suddenly, in December, after the fall of the inland city of Chungking. Little more than scattered guerrilla resistance now re-

mains against the Communists in China proper.

So sudden was the final Communist advance that Chiang Kai-shek narrowly escaped capture during his flight by air to Formosa. On that island, 90 miles off the coast of the China mainland, Chiang hopes to regroup his forces. He expects, one day, to return to power on the mainland. (As we go to press, it appears that the Chinese Communists are unlikely to try to take Formosa in the near future. They are expected, first, to devote their energies to establishing a firm government on the mainland.)

Chiang's decision to set up headquarters on Formosa, an island of less than 14,000 square miles, creates many problems. One of these is that the Chiang regime is not popular with most of the nearly 6½ million Formosan people. Although they are almost all of Chinese descent, the Formosans are islanders with an outlook quite different from that of their mainland brothers.

In 1895, Formosa was taken from China by Japan. The island remained under Japanese control for 50 years, until the end of World War II. Trade was mostly with Japan during that period, and the Formosans prospered. Their living standard was considerably higher than that of Chinese on the mainland.

Agriculture is a main source of livelihood for the Formosans, with sugar cane, rice and tea as the chief products. Sweet potatoes, bananas and pineapples also are grown on the

island. The Japanese directed irrigation projects, to increase the farming output.

Coal and great forests, providing wood for use in paper manufacture, are Formosan raw materials. The coal, and electric power developed by the Japanese, helped the growth of some industry—including manufacture of the paper, refining of the sugar cane, and the making of chemicals and cement. The electric power made it possible, too, for Formosans to have lights in their tiny huts.

But the Japanese, as colonists, kept firm control of Formosa's government. No democracy was allowed to develop. So the Formosans were happy at first when, in 1945, their island was turned back to Chinese control.

They were, however, quickly disappointed. Chiang's administrators treated the Formosans as a conquered people, and not as brothers with equal rights in government. The Formosans revolted against Chiang's island representatives in 1947. The revolutionary attempt failed, but it did give a clear idea of the troubles Chiang may face. New resentment is being created among the islanders, by the Chinese troops and by the thousands of refugees from the mainland.

For us, the question of what to do about Formosa is serious. During the war, we agreed with Britain, France and Russia that the island should be returned to the "republic of China." We had Chiang's government in mind.

Now, however, the issue arises: What is the "republic of China?" Does



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Chiang still represent it, although he has lost control of the mainland? Or is the real government of China now that controlled by the Communists? So far, we have held to recognition of Chiang.

Even if we should recognize the Chinese Communist regime, it is doubtful that we would let the Communists have Formosa. It is too important, militarily, as a defense against Russia—because it is along the sea lanes between southeast Asia and Japan, and because it lies between our Okinawa island bases, to the north, and our bases in the Philippines, to the south. We could hardly risk letting Communists control it.

So, what to do is yet to be decided. It appears that Formosa is joining the list of "problem-danger areas"—along with Germany and Austria—in our cold war with Russian communism.

—By THOMAS F. HAWKINS.



A PRIMITIVE—and hard—way of pumping water for rice fields is used in Formosa

NOTE TO TEACHERS: Cut along this line if you wish to save the test for later use. This test covers the issues of September 5, 1949, to January 2, 1950, inclusive. The answer key appears in the January 9th issue of THE CIVIC LEADER. Scoring: If grades are to be calculated on a percentage basis, we suggest that a deduction of 2 points be made for each wrong or omitted answer.

The American Observer Semester Test

I. NEWSMAKERS. For each of the following items, find the picture of the person identified and place the number of that picture on your answer sheet. (One picture will not be used.)

1. Secretary of State.
2. Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.
3. Prime Minister of India.
4. Chief Justice of the United States.
5. Ambassador to Denmark.
6. Leader of Communist China.
7. Secretary General of the United Nations.
8. Communist leader of Yugoslavia.

II. MULTIPLE CHOICE. In each of the following items, select the correct answer and write its letter on your answer sheet.

9. Germany is expected to play a key role in European affairs in the years ahead because (a) the West German State has developed strong Communist-controlled military forces; (b) her industrial production is already well above the wartime peak; (c) she occupies a strategic position between the Western European democracies and the Communist-

dominated lands of Eastern Europe; (d) the Nazi Party is again the most powerful in the land.

10. It is the purpose of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act to encourage (a) the granting of long-term loans to foreign countries by the U. S.; (b) the establishment of trade quotas among nations; (c) a greater volume of trade among nations; (d) greater sales of U. S. goods abroad and fewer imports.

11. The civilian labor force of the United States totals about 63 million workers. What part of this force belongs to labor unions? (a) about one-fourth; (b) about one-half; (c) almost two-thirds; (d) more than three-fourths.

12. A result of more than 300 years of Dutch rule over Indonesia is (a) a well-educated native population; (b) a high standard of living for native workers; (c) a high level of development in important manufacturing industries; (d) great development of agricultural and mineral resources.

13. The Italian government realizes that it can best make itself secure against the growth of internal communism by (a) removing a quarter of the Italian people to the African colonies; (b) rebuilding a large and powerful military

force; (c) outlawing the Italian Communist Party; (d) improving living conditions in Italy.

14. During 1949, Congress passed legislation providing for (a) repeal of oleomargarine taxes; (b) repeal of the Taft-Hartley labor law; (c) protection of all civil rights; (d) slum clearance and new housing.

15. In order to qualify for entry into the U. S. under the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, all refugees must (a) have American sponsors who will assure them homes and jobs; (b) agree to accept only agricultural work in America; (c) agree to become U. S. citizens within two years; (d) be former citizens of Germany and Austria.

16. A new government was established last year for Western Germany by (a) Britain, France, and the U. S.; (b) the World Court; (c) Russia; (d) the United Nations.

17. The Supreme Court decides whether or not a law is constitutional (a) just after the law is passed; (b) when a case involving the law is brought before the Court; (c) within one year after the law is passed; (d) while Congress is debating the law.

18. Britain and other countries have trade difficulties with the U. S. because (a) we have raised all our tariffs since the war; (b) we charge higher prices for goods sold abroad than for goods sold here; (c) we buy more goods abroad than we sell abroad; (d) we sell more goods abroad than we buy abroad.

19. Much of America's progress over the past century is due to (a) our development of machine power; (b) the growth of our cities; (c) the absence of industrial disputes; (d) our ownership of 80 per cent of the world's natural resources.

20. Under the Social Security System, the money to pay for old-age insurance is provided by (a) workers only; (b) workers and employers; (c) employers only; (d) the federal government.

21. The United Nations has been most successful in (a) ending disputes between Russia and the U. S.; (b) setting up world control of atomic energy; (c) drawing up peace treaties for Germany and Austria; (d) fighting hunger, disease, and ignorance.

22. General MacArthur has expressed the belief that (a) the Japanese have

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Historical Backgrounds

Slogans and Politics

FOR some time now, we have been hearing a lot about the *Fair Deal*. This is the name for the program, including a plan for national health insurance, which President Truman wants Congress to make into law. A good many members of Congress oppose the program, however, so the *Fair Deal* is an important political issue.

To understand its significance, we need to go back a bit in our history. Very often in the past, short phrases or slogans have expressed a whole political policy, a program for govern-



Roosevelt

Truman

ment. The phrases and slogans that have had a strong appeal to the voters have won elections. Moreover, they have expressed the mood of the times in which they were used.

William McKinley, for example, was re-elected President in 1900 with the Republican party slogan: *Four More Years of the Full Dinner Pail*. This reflected the comparative prosperity in those days, along with the promise of more. Theodore Roosevelt was known as the *Trust Buster*, for backing legislation to break up business monopolies in the early 1900's.

Herbert Hoover, President from

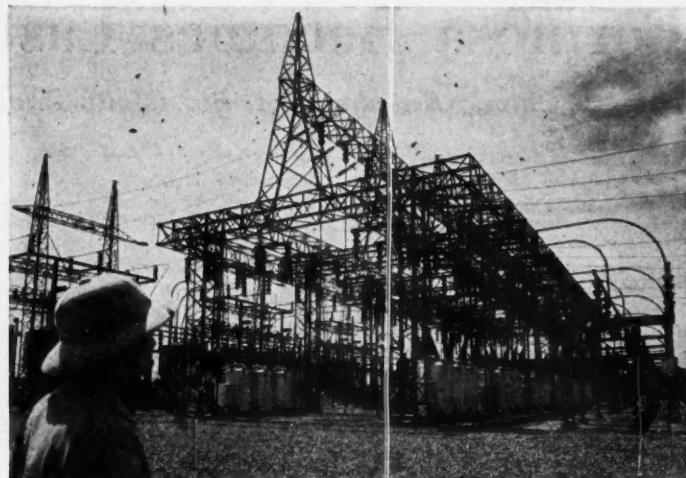
1929 to 1933, stood for the idea of *rugged individualism*. He believed, as very many Americans still do, that the nation can best maintain prosperity by individual enterprise—with a minimum of government interference in business, or in the lives and welfare of each citizen.

But, in 1929, the stock market crashed, and the country fell into depression. By 1932 probably 15 million were unemployed. Farmers, unable to sell their crops at a profit, lost their farms for debt. Thousands of banks closed their doors. There was discontent and despair.

During Mr. Hoover's administration, the government took steps to help the banks, mortgage companies, and railroads, through loans by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Mr. Hoover believed that aid to these large institutions would benefit people all over the country *indirectly*, and help to end the depression. *Direct* help to individuals, however, was left to state governments and to private relief agencies.

In 1932, as Democratic party candidate for the presidency, Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed a *New Deal*, for using national government funds to aid people *directly*. Individuals, he argued, were helpless during periods of depression in our modern, machine age. Only the national government, he felt, could act to assure a fair living standard to all.

Inaugurated as President on March 4, 1933, Mr. Roosevelt and his Democratic-controlled Congress acted quickly. Benefit payments to farmers



A POWER SWITCHYARD, a part of the Tennessee Valley development carried out under the New Deal program of Franklin D. Roosevelt

assured good crop prices. The government refinanced mortgages, so that citizens would not lose homes for debt. Hundreds of millions for road building, flood control, and other public projects provided jobs. Old-age pensions were authorized. Banks were reopened and people were insured against the kind of loss they had suffered through disastrous bank failures in the 1920's and 1930's.

The war delayed carrying on the program after 1941, and Mr. Roosevelt died in 1945. Harry Truman became President and undertook to revive and enlarge upon the Roosevelt ideas. He asked Congress for a health insurance law, for a bigger old-age pension plan, and for millions of dollars to aid schools. These, and similar proposals, Mr. Truman called his *Fair Deal*.

So far, the President has been only

partially successful in having his program enacted by Congress, even though he has had a Democratic majority in Congress for the past year.

Opposition to the *Fair Deal* comes from a number of Democrats and most Republicans. Some critics think it is too costly, and requires too heavy taxes. Others believe that individuals and states should handle health and education programs, to avoid the risk of centering dictatorial power in Washington.

President Truman and his followers are firmly convinced, however, that the *Fair Deal* program is essential to protect millions of Americans against the hazards of modern life. They contend that this program can be carried out without destroying anybody's freedom since the people, through free elections, will still control their government.

The American Observer Semester Test

(Concluded from preceding page)

made progress toward democracy and should be given their freedom soon; (b) Japan will never become a democratic nation; (c) peace will be preserved only if U. S. troops remain in Japan for many years; (d) the Japanese, while following democratic procedures, are not really democratic.

23. French workers face difficult times because (a) foreign countries have found that French goods are of poor quality; (b) their earnings have not kept up with living costs; (c) France has refused to join the European Recovery Program; (d) the French people are unable to find work.

24. The greatest U. S. population gains of the past decade have been made in the (a) Pacific Coast states; (b) New England states; (c) Great Lakes states; (d) Mississippi Valley states.

25. A factor that has contributed greatly to Italy's economic recovery since the war is (a) the redistribution of Italian farm lands; (b) aid from America and other western nations; (c) the rapid growth of trade with Russia and her satellites; (d) exchange of Italian grain surpluses for machinery from Britain and the U. S.

III. COMPLETION. After the corresponding number on your answer sheet, write the word, name, or phrase that best completes each of the following items.

26. Arabs, Israelis, and the United Nations are engaged in a dispute over control of the city of _____.

27. During the next 10 years, school enrollments in the U. S. are expected to _____.

28. What power, held by each of five large countries in the United Nations, has prevented the Security Council from doing its job well?

29. A tax placed on goods entering a country from abroad is called a _____.

30. In addition to better wages and hours, what other benefit is now sought by some of our large labor unions?

31. In the dispute between Indonesia and the Netherlands, agreement was reached largely because of the persistent efforts of _____.

32. The most important parts of China are now controlled by _____.

33. What communist nation in Europe is no longer on friendly terms with Russia?

34. What is the name of the treaty which we and 11 other nations joined in signing last April?

35. Which political party now has a majority in both houses of Congress?

IV. PLACES IN THE NEWS. Find the location of each of the following places on the adjoining maps, and write the number of that location after the proper item number on your answer sheet.

36. Albania

37. Bulgaria

38. Ceylon

39. Finland

40. France

41. Greece

42. India

43. Indonesia

44. Iran

45. Japan

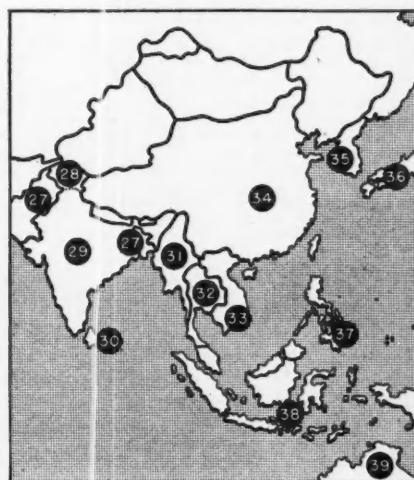
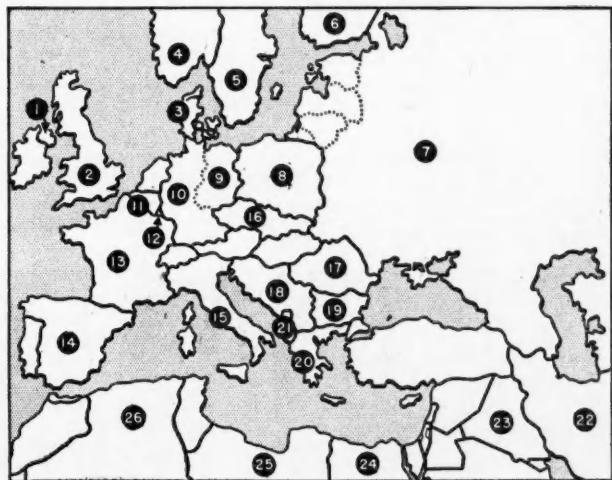
46. Kashmir

47. Korea

48. Libya

49. Pakistan

50. Yugoslavia



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